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CITY NEWS

The new perspective on city living

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Soldier accused in Kuwait killings tried to balance Muslim and Army lives

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA)- Asan Akbar, the Army sergeant accused of killing two of his fellow soldiers in Kuwait with grenades, was torn between serving his country and trying to remain faithful to his Muslim religion, his mother says.



In a telephone interview from Los Angeles with the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service, the mother, Quran Bilal, also a Muslim, recalled the last conversation with her son only a few days before he was to deploy. She said the two of them discussed his upcoming assignment to the Persian Gulf and his orders to blow up designated bridges.

"I said, 'Are you sure you want to go there?' He said, 'Yes.'"

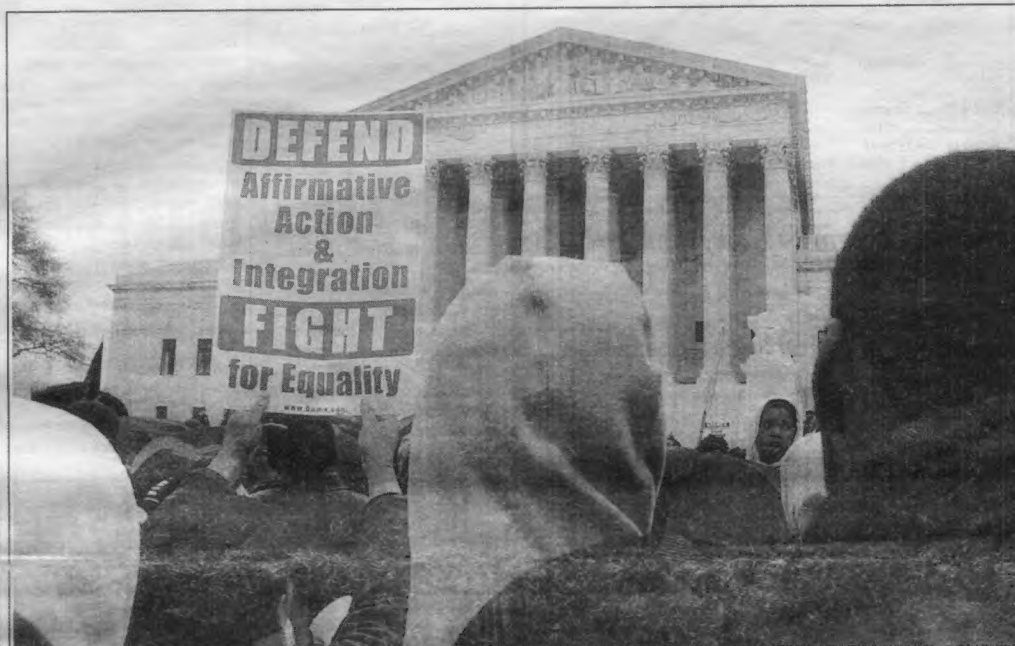
Bilal continues, "My son said, 'Mom, I'm just going to go up there and blow up the bridges.' I said, 'Okay.' I said, 'Blow up the bridges good. You don't want your [Muslim] brothers to cross, because if they cross, you don't want to kill them.' So I said, 'Blow up the bridges good and watch out for snipers because they're not going to know that you are a Muslim.' He said, 'Okay, Mom. No problem.'"

But there was a problem.

The Army alleges that, instead of tossing grenades at enemy troops, Akbar threw them at members of the 101st Airborne Division deployed to Camp Pennsylvania, Kuwait, killing two U.S. soldiers and injuring 15 others. The dead were identified as Army Capt. Christopher Scott Seifert, 27, of Easton, Pa., and Air Force Maj. Gregory Stone, 40, of Boise, Idaho.

See SOLDIER page 7

Affirmative Action Battle



Thousands jam the streets of Washington DC to keep the Affirmative Action program at the University of Michigan

WASHINGTON (NNPA)- Sitting for oral arguments in a pair of University of Michigan affirmative action cases on Tuesday, Supreme Court justices gave no indication of how they will vote in the case but made it clear that they are looking at more than just a black-and-white case of whether race- and gender-conscious affirmative action programs are constitutional.

In what is certain to be a landmark decision, the court is expected to rule by July whether the race-conscious affirmative action programs that cover undergraduate and the law schools at Michigan are permissible. The conservative Center for Individual Rights brought both cases on behalf of rejected white applicants, claiming the university had violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution's 14th Amendment.

This is the first time in 25 years that the court has considered whether race is permissible in college admissions. In "University of California Regents v. Bakke," the court outlawed quotas but said that

race can be used as a "plus" factor in admissions.

Although the case before the court centers on higher education, the ruling is expected to have an impact on employment practices and tax-supported government contracting.

As is their custom, the justices aggressively peppered each side with questions.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is expected to be the swing vote on the sharply-divided court that often produces 5-4 decisions in contentious cases.

Solicitor General Theodore B. Olson, who argued on behalf of the federal government against the University of Michigan plans, told the court that the program "fails every test this court has articulated."

When O'Connor pressed him on whether, as the court decided in "Bakke," race can be considered a "plus" factor, Olson replied, "We're reluctant to say never."

Kirk Kolbo, a Minneapolis lawyer who handled the rejected applicants' oral arguments, described the Michigan program as "a thinly disguised

quota," a term Justices Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy would later echo.

O'Connor told Kolbo, "You have some precedence out there that you have to come to grips with." She added, "We have given recognition to race in a variety of settings."

Clarence Thomas, the only African-American on the court, broke his customary silence. In the first hour-long case, which was brought against the law school, he said nothing. In the second case, which was heard immediately after the first case, Thomas asked several questions, none that showed a flicker of support for affirmative action.

Thomas raised the question of whether affirmative action has contributed to better race relations.

He asked, "Do you think your admissions (policies) at least provided some headwind toward that?"

John Payton, the attorney for the university, talked about how diversity had benefited students.

Black colleges would benefit from campus diversity? Payton replied that historically Black colleges and universities already practice diversity by having White students and faculty members.

University attorneys seemed to have their most difficulty defining what they consider a "critical mass" of Black students-the number that would make them feel isolated and forced to carry the burden of the entire race on their shoulders-without appearing to use a quota.

Payton noted that Black enrollment at Michigan had fluctuated between 12 percent and 17 percent over the past four years.

In an exchange with Maureen Mahoney, the lawyer for the University of Michigan law school, Scalia said, "Some applicants are given preference because of your use of the word 'critical mass'."

A Call for Spiritual Poems From Newark Area Poets

A \$1000.00 grand prize is being offered in a special religious poetry contest sponsored by the New Jersey Rainbow Poets, free to anyone who has ever written a poem. There are 50 prizes in all totaling almost \$5,000.00. The deadline for entering is May 3, 2003.

To enter, send one poem

only of 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, 103 N. Wood Ave., PMB 70, Linden, NJ 07036. Or enter online www.rainbowpoets.com.

"We think great spiritual poems can inspire achievement," says Frederick Young, the organization's Director.

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Former Governor Thomas H. Kean to receive Lifetime Achievement

On June 11, 2003, the Hon. Thomas H. Kean will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from Partnership In Philanthropy (PIP) at its seventh annual dinner/theatre benefit at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Former two term governor of New Jersey, Kean was recently named by President George W. Bush to lead the independent commission to investigate the September 11 attacks.

During his 35 years of public service in New Jersey, Kean has led initiatives to enhance the quality of life through education, social justice, the arts and humanities, and the environment. In 1990 he became president of Drew University, now considered one of the nation's leading small liberal arts universities.

Rated among America's five most effective state leaders by "Newsweek," Kean holds more than 25 honorary degrees and numerous awards from environmental and educational organizations.

Terrance Bankston, 20, becomes youngest Board of Ed candidate

Bloomfield College student Terrance Bankston has wasted no time establishing himself as a campus leader. In his three years at Bloomfield, he has been the President of the Freshman Class, Vice President of Day Student Government, and President of Day Student Government. Now, the 20 yearold junior has become the youngest candidate to run for the Newark Board of Education.

"I can be the voice of this generation," said Bankston. "The Board needs to relate to today's youngsters and it needs someone who can bring issues and concerns to the table that older people might not consider."

Bankston, a political science major, feels that his age and his perspective are tremendous assets when it comes to addressing many of the city's challenges dropout rates, drugs, gangs, attendance issues and low standardized test scores.

To strengthen the school system, Bankston hopes to introduce many programs that build character and teach necessary skills. He sees Bloomfield



College's DEEP and STEP leadership programs as good models to emulate.

"I admire these programs because they teach students to be independent and make a successful transition from high school to college," said Bankston.

From an early age, Bankston was immersed in city government and community service. His grandfather, Earl Johnson, is a commissioner in Newark, and his aunt, Kim Gaddy, has been a Board of Education member and a community activist for many years.

After graduating next year, Bankston hopes to pursue a career in government or college administration.

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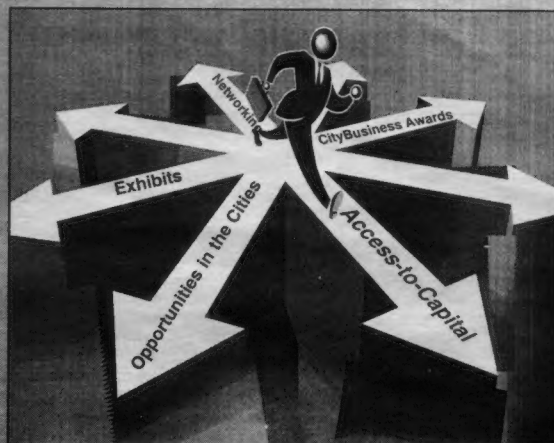
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Editorial

Will the truth please stand up

Will the truth please stand up? The truth I refer to is the support of the President and his handling of the affairs of state which include the war on Iraq, our image worldwide, the economy, the promises of better education, health care, opportunities and on and on. Are we as satisfied with the Bush administration as the major media would lead us to believe? The same MacArthur-like era where people lived in fear of saying what they truly believed is once again plaguing our country. Every little right-wing conservative in this country is pointing a figure of shame or guilt at anyone who dares to speak out. There is evidence this war is the continuation of a few right-wing conservatives whose is to create a "New World Order" setting up their ideal world, which includes control of valuable natural resources worldwide.

If Mr. Bush is to have his last, this war or others will need to last at least into next year in order to guarantee his re-election. (We can't change generals in the middle of a war.) As soon as the war is over Americans will come to their senses as they did after the Gulf war and realize the war machine is not how we want to live in this country.

Should we believe that the thousand or more people who are surveyed in the polls truly reflect the fear, frustration, and anxiety experienced by the American people. These are the polls that give Mr. Bush 70% approval rating. Are we missing something or have we become a country of warmongers. I think not. I ask again, will the truth please stand up?

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by Sheldon Richman

President Bush has asked Congress for about \$75 billion to begin paying for the war in Iraq and other costs related to it and the war on terrorism. (Some of the money will also pay for U.S. intervention in Colombia's civil war.) Boy, is he living in a dream world. Congress doesn't have any money.

The current fiscal year's deficit is projected to be somewhere between \$246 billion (the Congressional Budget Office's estimate) and \$304 billion (the Office of Management and Budget's estimate). Next year's budget is expected to be at the top end of that range.

So where does a Congress that already can't pay its bills come up with \$75 billion? I suppose all it can do is authorize the president to borrow the money when he needs it. In the meantime the Senate has drastically reduced the size of Bush's requested tax cut. So, as expected, the economic casualty of the Iraq (the first casualty being the truth) is consideration for the long-suffering taxpayers. As one of those taxpayers, I can truly say I am not honored to have my money taken first to destroy Iraq and then to reconstruct it.

The tax cut was piddling to begin with. Even if we take the largest estimate of the cut and assume that lowering tax rates does not actually produce more revenues (which it does), it would have "cost" \$726 billion. (The cost is to the government itself, which doesn't have a right to the money in the first place.) That's the 10-year figure. As someone has pointed out, politicians always use the 10-year figure because it makes a

small tax cut sound big. A \$73-billion-a-year tax cut doesn't sound so impressive when you recall that the federal budget is now over \$2,000 billion a year. That puts \$73 billion into perspective, doesn't it?

At any rate, the Treasury will have to borrow the war money. The American ethic used to frown on people living beyond their means, borrowing to pay for luxuries they couldn't afford. But the U.S. government has never lost sleep borrowing to fight wars. It's a tradition. So we'll do it again this time. Unfortunately, we are already starting

But don't worry — lower taxes are in our future. Right after we reform Iraq, then Iran, Syria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, and the rest of the unruly rogue nations.

out with a large deficit — and that hurts, since it seemed like only yesterday that we were celebrating the first budget surplus since we came in many years. Was it a dream?

There was also a brief time in the late 1980s and early 1990s when budget-deficits had the blessed effect of chilling the government's ability to spend money. But that effect is gone. Deficits today are no barrier to spending money — especially money for war, the cost of which will know no bounds. Even Bush's domestic spending rivals his predecessor's.

There are many myths about government deficits. For example, it is said, usually by the party out of power, that deficits push up interest rates. The record says otherwise. In the past, foreign investors have been able and willing to send capital here to counteract the government's upward pressure on interest rates. Maybe that will happen this time too. Or maybe the recession will keep rates low. Regardless of what happens with interest rates, deficits are hardly benign. When the government borrows money, it diverts scarce capital from projects intended to satisfy consumers to projects intended to satisfy politicians.

The never-produced products that we consumers are deprived of are the real cost of the borrowing. In this case, we get bombs with which to destroy Iraq buildings rather than new and better goods and services. And some of the money will go to politically connected corporations to build new Iraq buildings rather than to creating things that will make us healthier or more comfortable.

Frankly, I don't think that's a good trade. But no one asked me. I'm just a taxpayer. Mere taxpayers, fixed as we are on our own narrow self-interest, can be allowed to obstruct the New World Order being created by the Bush administration. But don't worry — lower taxes are in our future. Right after we reform Iraq, then Iran, Syria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, and the rest of the unruly rogue nations.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.offf.org) in Fairfax, Va., author of *Reformed Citizens: Time to Repeal the Welfare State*.

the Second Casualty of War

Tax Changes For Business Taxpayers Fewer Tax Forms for Small Businesses to File

Starting with the 2002 tax year, companies with less than \$250,000 of total receipts and less than \$25,000 in assets no longer have to complete Schedules L, M1 and M2 of Form 1120; Part III and IV of Form 1120A; and Schedules L and M1 of Form 1120S.

Small businesses will be able to use record keeping based on their Checkbook or cash receipts and disbursements journal instead of creating additional records just for tax purposes. The companies must still maintain records detailing assets, liabilities, equity accounts and adjustments used to arrive at taxable income.

Self-Employed Health Insurance Deduction

Self-employed taxpayers generally may deduct 70 percent of their 2002 medical and long-term care insurance payments for themselves and their families as an adjustment to income. They may include the remaining costs with their other medical deductions if they itemize deductions. In 2003, they generally will be able to deduct the full cost of such insurance.

Section 179 Deduction Higher for Enterprise Zone and Renewal Community Businesses

The maximum Section 179 deduction for these businesses is increased by \$35,000 (to \$39,000) for 2002.

Five-Year Carryback of Net

without itemizing deductions on Schedule A.

Special Depreciation Allowance

Businesses that acquire and begin using new qualified equipment after September 10, 2001, may deduct an additional 30 percent of the depreciable basis in the first year of use. This Special Depreciation Allowance is figured after first reducing the basis by any Section 179 deduction taken. The allowance, in turn, is subtracted from that basis to determine the basis remaining for depreciation. This tax break will be available for property acquired before September 11, 2004 and placed into service by the end of that year. Taxpayers may choose not to claim this allowance by attaching an appropriate statement to their tax returns.

Credit for Pension Plan Startup Costs

This new tax credit helps small businesses offset the costs of setting up and administering a new qualified employer plan and education employees about it. The credit is 50 percent of these costs, with a maximum amount of \$500 per year. After the first year the credit is claimed, it may be claimed again only in the following two years. To qualify, a business must have had no more than 100 employees who have received at least \$5,000 in pay during the preceding year. The plan must include at least one non-highly compensated employee.

Operating Losses

Taxpayers with net operating losses (NOLs) for tax years ending in 2001 or 2002 will generally carry them back five years, rather than two (three, for certain casualty, theft and disaster-related losses). However, they may choose to use the two or three year period instead, or to carry the entire NOL forward for up to 20 years. Taxpayers waiving the five year rule must do so by their filing deadline (including extensions).

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Newark Liberty Int'l airport to host job fair

High school seniors from Newark and Elizabeth will take part in a job fair at Newark Liberty International Airport on April 10 and 11, sponsored by the Port Authority. Approximately 400 students will have the opportunity to meet with more than 20 companies, including the U.S. Postal Service, Federal Express and Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

The job fair is intended to give students who are undecided about a career, or who are not college bound a chance to explore a variety of vocations, some of which pertain to the aviation industry. The students will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from a wide range of airport related companies and organizations in the fields of delivery, hospitality, food service, retail and medical assistance.

Port Authority Chairman Jack C. Sinagra said, "Programs such as this job fair assist high school seniors who will soon be making the transition from the classroom to the working world by offering them the chance to explore the

many career paths in the job market. Newark Liberty International Airport and the Port Authority are proud to be a part of the communities in Newark and Elizabeth."

Port Authority Executive Director Joseph J. Seymour said, "This is another great opportunity for the Port Authority to give something back to the communities that host Newark Liberty International Airport. We want Newark and Elizabeth to know that we appreciate their support and that they can depend on us to be good and helpful neighbors."

The job fair will take place in Building 79 at the airport and will be divided into two sessions, from 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Narrow Supreme Court Decision Upholds "Three Strike" Law

In the first of the two cases considered by the Court, *Lockyer v. Andrade*, Leo Andrade was sentenced to 30 years in prison for stealing nine children's videos, worth about \$150. In the second, *Ewing v. California*, Gary A. Ewing was

More than 7,000 people are now in California prisons serving sentences of at least 25 years under the law, (Three Strikes) including more than 300 whose "third strike" was a petty theft.

sentenced to a mandatory 25 years in prison for stealing three golf clubs from a pro shop. More than 7,000 people are now in California prisons serving sentences of at least 25 years under the law, including more than 300 whose "third

strike" was a petty theft. The majority opinion in these cases, written by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, rejected the contention that the sentences at issue were so grossly disproportionate to the crimes committed as to violate the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. Rather, she argued, that given the "long history of felony recidivism" with regard to each of the defendants, the sentences in question were appropriate.

For many critics, punishing a person again for crimes for which a person has already served their time is cruel. In Justice O'Connor's view, however, any criticism of the wisdom of the "three strikes" law is "appropriately directed at the Legislature." California's judgment that recidivists "must be incapacitated" was entitled to judicial deference, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said.

Four Justices dissented from the majority's holding in these cases, arguing that California's three strikes law violates the 8th Amendment because it authorizes mandatory sentences that are grossly disproportionate to the crimes committed. Justice David Souter, writing for the minority in the *Andrade* case, argued that, "[I]f Andrade's sentence is not disproportionate, the principle has no meaning."

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'Does Who Care' Program connects minority physicians to underserved children in inner cities

Newark — Dr. Dolores Ensey will tell her colleagues in a heartbeat that minority physicians must do more for children and their families in underserved communities. She will show them how. For the past eight months, Dr. Ensey has coordinated the visits of numerous doctors to community health fairs, classrooms and individually conducted weekly 12-hour health education awareness classes for over 200 students at five schools in Newark and East Orange, as well as day centers and the National Guard's Newark Corps of Cadets and Army Explorers.

Dr. Ensey, a chiropractic physician in private practice, donates her time and money because she believes the "prevention of a disease will always supersede the cure." Dr. Ensey, who is also a Licensed Nurse notes, "When I looked at the realities of Newark and learned that 1 out of every 3 children are at risk of a minor and chronic disease, I said wait a minute there is something I can do and I'm going to do some-



thing." That compassion has created Does Who Care, the first program of its kind in Essex County. Located in the James Park Center (formerly United Community Hospital), the mission is to empower the next generation of leaders by educating and raising health awareness in the community. The overall goals of the center are to: increase preventive health services for children; provide a broader reach for public health departments to carry their message and to empower children at an early age to become leaders and take charge of their lives and health.

Does Who Care is well on its way and last year, Dr. Ensey received the NAACP Newark Branch's Health Award for her service to the Newark community. Does Who Care has recently partnered with the First Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church

and the West Ward Cultural Center, to create a community coalition of programs which would involve parents in the early healthcare of their children. Dr. Ensey is also planning a countywide conference for minority physicians to deal with, what she refers to as "the unnecessary crisis within our community," the absence of a medical and dental home for every child and their family within Essex County.

Dr. Ensey notes, "The sad reality for many in minority communities is that a neighborhood health fair is their main access to medical services. So if something is preventing them from coming to a doctor, then we have to bring the doctors to them." Dr. Ensey is serious about getting more minority doctors involved and says, "It's not only important we provide medical access, but it is crucial that minority children see doctors who look like them to inspire them and make sure they can create a successful selfimage." So far nearly 70 doctors have volunteered with Does Who Care and if Dr. Ensey has anything to say about it, there will be a few more empty golf courses on Wednesday afternoons.

Poor health keeps elderly from seeking preventive care

By Becky Han
Staff writer

Health Beat News Service

Poor physical health and disabilities may keep older HMO patients from seeking preventive care like mammograms and flu shots and changing unhealthy behaviors like smoking, according to a new study.

Physical health problems and elderly patients' health behaviors more than mental health problems like depression, say Carla A. Green, Ph.D., M.P.H., of the Oregon Health and Science University and colleagues at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research.

In one exception to this finding, older patients who reported being depressed were more likely to smoke, the researchers report.

Despite our expectations that self-reported depression and recent psychiatric treatment would be related to health problems among the elderly, we found few such relationships," Green says.

Green and colleagues surveyed 4,615 individuals ages 65 to 103, enrolled in the Kaiser Permanente Northwest HMO about their physical and mental health, their use of preventive health services and their health-related behaviors like smoking, drinking and exercise. They also asked the survey participants whether they had completed an advance

medical directive like a living will.

Individuals were less likely to smoke or drink alcohol frequently as they got older, but they were also less likely to have mammograms, lose weight and exercise with increasing age, the researchers found.

Minority and low-income patients, along with those with physical health limitations, were less likely to use preventive medical services. Minority and low-income patients were also less likely to complete advance medical directives, according to the researchers.

"This suggests that additional efforts need to be made to reach out to elderly members of low-income or minority status to ensure that they receive important preventive care services," Green says.

Elderly patients who were taking multiple prescription medications or who had recently fallen were more likely to use preventive care and to practice good health behaviors, suggesting that regular contact with health care providers may encourage better health practices.

"Our findings suggest that these additional visits give older patients more opportunities to suggest vaccinations, to go over opportunities for advance directives, and perhaps to discuss needs for behavior change," Green and colleagues say.

Doctor visit may be good time to counsel teen smokers

More than 70 percent of teen smokers visiting their primary care doctors say that they are at least thinking about giving up cigarettes, which may make these visits a good time to counsel teens about smoking, according to a new study.

The study suggests that "under the right circumstances, teens may be more willing to discuss smoking and other health behavior issues during routine primary care than has previously been reported," say Jack F. Hollis, Ph.D., of the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research and colleagues.

"This suggests that additional efforts need to be made to reach out to elderly members of low-income or minority status to ensure that they receive important preventive care services," Green says.

Hollis and colleagues used waiting room questionnaires to collect information on smoking and other health behaviors from 2,526 teens ages 14 to 17. The teens were asked about their history and attitude toward smoking and their plans to quit, along with their educational plans and their exercise and diet habits.

Teens who were older, Native American or depressed or who had health problems were more likely to be smokers, according to the researchers. Teens who had a majority of smoking friends or who lived with smokers at home were also more likely to smoke.

More than three-quarters of

the current smokers in the study said that they had made at least one serious attempt to quit during the last year, and more than half had made two or more attempts to quit.

"Despite this interest in quitting, these current smokers were only moderately confident that they could quit smoking if given the opportunity," the researchers say.



Health Briefs

CANCER MAY RISE 50 PERCENT BY 2020

The number of new cancer cases worldwide is expected to increase by 50 percent over the next 20 years, partly because poor nations are adopting unhealthy Western habits, the World Health Organization (news - web sites) said. Worldwide, about 10 million people are diagnosed with cancer every year and 6 million people die from it.

BIRTH CONTROL LINKED TO CERVICAL CANCER

Women who use birth control pills have an increased risk of cervical cancer the longer they are on the contraceptive, a British study confirms.

The study was done to give more definite information about the risk, which previous research has established. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently revised contraceptive labels to include that risk. The risk is directly related to length of time women use hormonal contraceptives, as they are formally known, says a report in the April 5 issue of The Lancet.

Women who have not spoken higher for women infected with the human papillomavirus (HPV), which is thought to be the major cause of cervical cancer, using the pill elevates the risk for women free of HPV, the researchers say.

PREMATURE BABIES' DIET LINKED TO DIABETES RISK

Premature babies given a nutrient-enriched diet designed to help them catch up to their full term peers appear to be more likely to have a pre-diabetic condition in adolescence, UK researchers said recently.

However, investigators have also shown that providing pre-term infants with extra nutrition during the first weeks of life — a period of rapid growth — helps develop their brains and bones. Currently, premature babies are given a nutrient-enriched form of infant formula to spur their growth.

Despite the current findings, study author Dr. Atul Singhal of the Institute of Child Health in London that practice should continue.

NFL Players Association Honors YMCA's Milton Harrison of Westhampton



Newark — The National Football League Players Association of New York & New Jersey has named Milton Harrison, President and CEO of the YMCA of Newark & Vicinity, as an honoree for his community service. Mr. Harrison, a resident of Westhampton, will be honored at the NFLPA's annual dinner dance on Thursday, April 10, 2003, at The Fiesta in Woodbridge, NJ. Mr. Harrison heads one of New Jersey's largest YMCA's. The YMCA of Newark & Vicinity provides a variety of health, fitness and after-school programs for adults and children in Newark, Kearny and Belleville; membership has grown 25-fold since his tenure; emergency shelter for over 200 homeless individuals and families and low-cost housing through its Residence; Conferences and environmental education programs at its Linwood-McDonald Center in Sussex County.

Mr. Harrison created the Sports Legends program in 1994, bringing in top flight athletes from the NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB, US Olympic teams and other sports to visit schools and hospitals to speak with kids about staying in school and reaching for their dreams. Now celebrating its tenth anniversary, Legends has reached out to thousands of New Jersey youth. Proceeds from Legends fund scholarships for low-income students.

Under Mr. Harrison's direction, the Y developed Project Right Start, a skills-building and career management program for the jobless and underemployed. Last year, the program put more than 170 people into productive jobs — giving them back their dignity and independence, and saving New Jersey taxpayers millions in welfare costs.

Soldier accused in Kuwait killings tried to balance Muslim and Army lives

Continued from page 1

The question of why is on everyone's minds: from military officials to Akbar's closest relatives, who have not spoken with him since he was arrested March 23 and taken to a detention center at Mannheim, Germany. At press time, Akbar had not been charged, but he was transferred to Fort Campbell, Ky., home of the 101st.

Akbar was described by relatives and friends as quiet, studious, respectful and a devout Muslim. After graduating from Los Angeles' Locke High School in 1988, Akbar enrolled at University of California-Davis. Graduating with a double degree in aeronautical science engineering and mechanical engineering, he joined the Army in 1998, hoping to get to pay for a master's degree in engineering.

Imam Abdul Karim Hasan, minister of the Baitul Islamic Center in South Central Los Angeles where Akbar worshipped while in high school, believes Akbar should never have joined the Army. "He didn't have the military mind," Hasan says. "He was not equipped to be pushed. He seemed to have a peaceful mind. He seemed to be the type that I would see him on the corner holding a sign that says 'No war.' He was not military material. He was corporate material."

Akbar's full Army record has not been disclosed to the public. But military spokespersons have been widely quoted as charging that Akbar had "an attitude problem," and had been reprimanded for insubordination. According to "The Los Angeles Times," when Akbar was apprehended by fellow soldiers, he yelled, "You guys are coming into our countries and you're going to rape our women and kill our children."

Akbar's stepfather, William Bilal, who lives in Baton Rouge, La., and is divorced from Akbar's mother, recalls a Christmas conversation he had with Akbar three years ago. "He was talking about how hard it is to be a Black man to make rank," the stepfather recalls. "I just told him he'd have to deal with it."

The mother says her son did not make a habit of complaining to her about racial discrimination in the Army. "But, he did say that his platoon and the guys in charge over him, that none of them liked him," she says. But she does not believe that was enough to push her son over the edge.

When a reporter told him the official version of what had happened in Kuwait, she was shocked. "When he told me that, I said that wasn't true. My son wouldn't do anything like that. I know he didn't do that. No, he did not do that. He'd have to know to do something like that."

This was not her only son to join the military — or the first to have experienced problems after enlisting.

Mustafa Ismail Bilal, 20, was in the Air Force for three years until last year. He says he deliberately committed minor infractions to get out of service. Stationed at Moody Air Force Base near Valdosta, Ga., Bilal says he was badgered because he was a Muslim. He says the Air Force granted him an early general discharge under honorable conditions.

Bilal says he understands the pressure his older brother might be under. "It's just like being bullied," the younger brother says. "He ain't got a mean bone in his body, but you push him, push him, push him, then he'll roar and come right back at you and the bully will get his butt whipped."

The younger brother lives in Baton Rouge with his stepfather, William Bilal. Both refer to Akbar as Hasan.

When a reporter telephoned the stepfather at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 23, to ask about Akbar's character, William Bilal beamed. "I thought they were going to give him an honor or something," he recalls. The reporter did not say that his call was about dishonor, not honor.

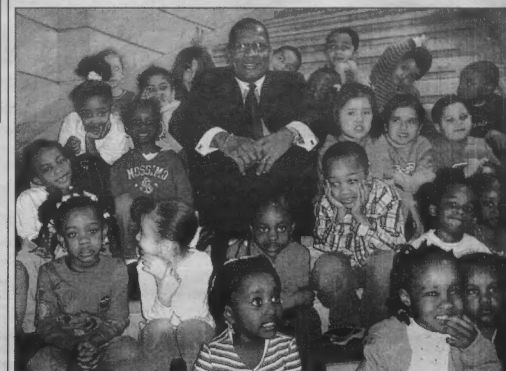
A second reporter would be more direct. "I had seen the picture on TV earlier, but I didn't recognize him," Bilal recounts. "They were showing it again on CNN and as the second reporter on the phone was talking, I took a focused look. That's when I contrived who the man was. I never in my heart thought it would be him. I'm looking in his face, but this is not the Hasan I know. I'm like, 'No, this is not Hasan. If this is Hasan, what could have driven him to this breaking point?'"

The unusual story took another twist.

Just hours after the NNPA News Service interview last Thursday, federal agents searched William Bilal's house and charged him with illegal possession of firearms. Just as details began to emerge about Akbar's past, so did sordid details from Bilal's early years.

According to U.S. Attorney David Dugas, the ATF's affidavit states that the stepfather was convicted of aggravated rape in 1970 and served 15 years in prison. For a convicted sex offender, Bilal, a 52-year-old air conditioner repairman, could be found in violation of his parole and sentenced to 10 more years in prison.

Celebrating Week of the Young Child



Mayor Sharpe James, the Newark Department of Health and Human Service's (HHS) Office of Children, parents and early childcare providers and advocates city-wide celebrated the Week of the Young Child promoting activities to raise awareness of the importance of caring for children and their future. The National theme for this year is "Children's Opportunities Are Our Responsibilities". "This celebration is intended to focus on the positive accomplishments of parents, staff and children who are involved in Early Childhood Education" said Mayor James. Too often we hear only the negative aspects of child care, not positive attributes". Newark Mayor Sharpe James, the Newark Department of Health and Human Services Director, Catherine Cuomo-Casero and Executive Director of Newark Day Center, Triah Morris were on hand for the kick-off ceremony.

E Briefs Entertainment News

R. Kelly supports troops and changes image

Public opinion about R. Kelly is slowly changing. In a matter of months ago many people publicly denounced him after he was charged with having sex with a minor.

But then R. Kelly came out with his latest set, "Chocolate Factory" which debuted at No. 1 on two Billboard charts and reminded us that he is a great artist. He also produced a recent chart-topper for B2K and he donated money to the families of the tragic Chicago club stamper. R's latest good deed is recording a song in support of U.S. troops. The cut is entitled "A Soldier's Heart" and it was placed in rotation last week at several radio stations. "This song is my way of saying thank you to everyone protecting us and allowing us to sleep com-

fortable at night and send our children off to school in the morning," Kelly said in a statement. Say what you want about Kelly but he ain't goin' down that easy.

Juvenile reunites with Cash Money Millionaires



Juvenile has reunited with Cash Money Records after a bitter break-up in 2001. "Juvenile and I have Money have settled any differences that had and Juve is currently working on an album which will be released by Cash Money later this year," Peter Seitz, CEO of American Talent Agency, told ARTZ. AllHipHop.com. ATA is Juvenile's management company and Seitz said the parties would release a formal statement at a later date.

O' Dirty Bastard goes to mental hospital



Wu-Tang clan member O' Dirty Bastard has been released from an upstate New York prison facility and is being held in a mental hospital in the New York area. According to sources, it was concluded that O' Dirty was unsafe to the public, but may be released as early as July.

Blake pleads not guilty — free on bail



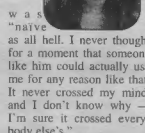
Actor Robert Blake entered a plea of not guilty to counts of murder, conspiracy, and lying in wait at his arraignment in Los Angeles. Blake was released on \$1.5-million bail. As part of the bail agreement, Blake is under house arrest and surrendered his passport. He will be back in court on June 19 for a pre-trial hearing.

Lisa Marie says her publicity

Lisa Marie says her publicity

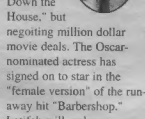


Lisa Marie Presley has admitted that she was probably part of a media PR campaign when she agreed to be interviewed by Diane Sawyer with her then husband, Michael Jackson, for an ABC Primetime special in 1995. In an interview with Rolling Stone magazine, she said that she



The Queen is reigning With the top movie in the country, Queen Latifah is not just "Bringing Down the House," but negotiating million dollar movie deals. The Oscar-nominated actress has signed on to star in the "female version" of the runaway hit "Barbershop."

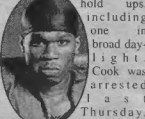
What a Girl Wants (PG for mild epithets)



Even though Rock takes a writing credit, the story-line represents a thinly-veiled revision of Dave (1993), in much the same way that Down in Earth (2001) was essentially Hiccup Can Wait (1973) in blackface. The thumbnail sketch of the plot reads as follows: Washington, DC Alderman Mays Gilliam (Rock) is plucked from obscurity as his party's underdog presidential candidate.

Combination documentary and concert film showcases comedian Eddie Griffin's raunchy stand-up routine while revealing skeletons in his kinky family closet.

Independent & Foreign Films
Cet Amour-La (Unrated) Adaptation of Yann Andre's loving memoir chronicling his April-December romance with novelist Marguerite Duras over the last sixteen years of her life. (In French with subtitles.) Cowboy Bebop: The Movie (R for violent images) Animated feature based on the Japanese anime TV series of the same name. Screen adaptation set in 2071, has the intergalactic bounty hunter tracking down the terrorist who has just unleashed a deadly virus on Mars. (Dubbed)

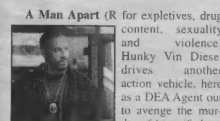


Terrence Cook, 22, faces armed robbery charges in Atlanta, GA. Cook is accused of six hold ups, including one in broad daylight. Cook was arrested last Thursday after a gas station and three motels were robbed within minutes of each other. Cook had a gold single, "Left, Right, Left" which reached #3 on Billboard's rap chart in 2000.

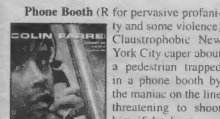
50 Cent is seeking to sell the rights to his memoirs, titled "Number One With Nine Bullets." The book will detail the death of his mother, his life in the streets & how he hooked up with Eminem & Dr. Dre. The book will also include at least 25 poems the rapper has written & is scheduled to be released by Christmas.

KAM'S KAPSULES

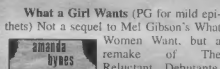
BIG BUDGET FILMS



A Man Apart (R for expletives, drug content, sexuality and violence) Hunkey Vin Diesel drives another action vehicle, here as a DEA Agent out to avenge the murder of his wife by a



Phone Booth (R for pervasive profanity and some violence) Claustrophobic New York City caper about a pedestrian trapped in a phone booth by the manic on the line threatening to shoot him if he hangs up. Planned fall 2002 release delayed due to the DC sniper attacks.



What a Girl Wants (PG for mild epithets) Not a sequel to Mel Gibson's What Women Want, but a remake. The Reluctant Debutante, the 1958 Romantic Comedy directed by Vincent Minnelli starring Sandra Dee, Rex Harrison, and Angela Lansbury. This version installs Amanda Bynes as the American teen who ventures to England in search of her long-lost father.

Dysfunctional Family (R for drug and sex humor, and pervasive profanity) Combination documentary and concert film showcases comedian Eddie Griffin's raunchy stand-up routine while revealing skeletons in his kinky family closet.

Independent & Foreign Films
Cet Amour-La (Unrated) Adaptation of Yann Andre's loving memoir chronicling his April-December romance with novelist Marguerite Duras over the last sixteen years of her life. (In French with subtitles.) Cowboy Bebop: The Movie (R for violent images) Animated feature based on the Japanese anime TV series of the same name. Screen adaptation set in 2071, has the intergalactic bounty hunter tracking down the terrorist who has just unleashed a deadly virus on Mars. (Dubbed)

Fellini: I'm a Born Liar (Unrated) Biography of Federico Fellini (1920-1993), analyzes the life and career of the legendary director. (In Italian with subtitles.)

The Good Thief (R for profanity, drug use, sex and some violence) Nick Nolte stars in this remake of Bob Le Flambeur, the 1955 French crime thriller about a down on his luck gambler who decides to rob a casino.

The Guys (PG for adult themes and brief explicit First feature film about the 9-11 tragedy, adapted from a play performed near Ground Zero. True tale stars Anthony LaPaglia as a NYPD captain who enlists the assistance of a journalist played by Sigourney Weaver to write eulogies he must deliver for his eight fallen firemen.

Chris Rock is "Head of State"

Review by Kam Williams

Don't let the slap-happy commercial fool you. When you see those silly snippets of this "1st black president" comedy, you might be tempted to think that Chris Rock might have finally figured out how to bring his irreverent brand of humor to the big screen. Think something else. There's no evidence of the caustic comic's brilliance anywhere in the lame collection of loopy skits masquerading as cutting-edge social satire.

Rock has encountered difficulties trying to translate the magic of his stand-up act to the cinema before. Anybody remember his high marish appearances in Bad Company (2002), Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back (2001), Nurse Betty (2000), Dogma (1999) and Osmosis Jones (2001), to name a few?

Well, he can't point fingers this time, because not only did he star in the film, he also wrote, directed, and produced Head of State.

Even though Rock takes a writing credit, the story-line represents a thinly-veiled revision of Dave (1993), in much the same way that Down in Earth (2001) was essentially Hiccup Can Wait (1973) in blackface. The thumbnail sketch of the plot reads as follows: Washington, DC Alderman Mays Gilliam (Rock) is plucked from obscurity as his party's underdog presidential candidate.

A 90 minute waste of celluloid, and in poor taste.

The crude Mays, in turn, picks his uncouth brother "Spirit", NJPAC jubilation choir debut new CD

Features top gospel artists

Newark — The NJPAC Jubilation Choir, a 120 voice-strong volunteer professional choir created under the auspices of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center Arts Education Department, has introduced its first CD, Spirit.

Under the direction of singer, teacher, composer Reverend Stefanie R. Minnate, the choir has thrilled sold out Arts Center audiences with programs of African American Sacred Music and Gospel since it was formed in October, 1998.

Spirit offers 14 selections produced with the spirit and dignity of a sacred service featuring stellar lead vocal performances by Rev. Lawrence Roberts, Albertina Walter, Dorothy Norwood, Dr. Cissy Houston, Terence Latifah, Sam Harris, Nancy Jackson Houston, Tonovia R'mani Amore and Lorraine Stancil. Also featured choir soloists include, Sharlene Nelson, Ruby Annette Evans and Don Corey Washington.

The new CD "Spirit" is available at the NJPAC Center Stage gift shop in the Eric and Lore Ross Rotunda, and select music stores throughout the region.

NJPAC

New Jersey PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

COMING SOON!

Edward Villella's
MIAMI CITY BALLET
Friday, April 25 at 8:00
Prudential Hall \$45 \$33 \$43 \$33 \$23 \$16

2003 Grammy Award Winner
MURRAY PERAHIA, piano
Saturday, May 4 at 3:00
Beethoven, Bach, Schubert
Prudential Hall \$45 \$33 \$43 \$33 \$23 \$16

SONNY ROLLINS
Friday, May 16 at 8:00
Prudential Hall \$55-\$75

DEON BRADEN AND FRIENDS
with special guest
BENNY GOLSON
Saturday, May 17 at 7:00
Ages 13 & up • Victoria Theater
Adult \$23 Child \$10

NJN HISPANIC YOUTH
SHOWCASE
Friday, May 23 at 7:00
Ages 8 & up • Victoria Theater
Adult \$13 Child \$6

RIVERDANCE
Tuesday, June 10-
Wednesday, June 15
Prudential Hall
Tue-Thru \$64-\$71
Fri-Sun \$74-\$71

MORMON TABERNACLE
CHOIR
Monday, June 30 at 7:30
Prudential Hall \$99-\$116

CALL FOR A FREE
2003-2004 BROCHURE!



GREG OSBY FOUR plus
JASON MORAN and THE BANDWAGON
Saturday, May 3 at 7:30



ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER
Friday, May 9 at 8:00; Saturday, May 10 at 2:00 & 8:00;
Sunday, May 11 at 3:00

Under the artistic leadership of dance superstar Judith Jamison, America's premier modern dance company perpetuates the creative passion of its legendary founder with a unique blend of modern dance, Afro-Cuban, classical ballet and jazz.

Program: Friday evening & Saturday matinee: Afro Classics with Revelations; Saturday evening and Sunday matinee: The Winter in Lisbon; Sunday matinee: Teaching Revelations
Prudential Hall • \$65-\$116

LACKAWANNA BLUES

Written and Performed by Ruben Santiago-Hudson
Thursday, April 3 at 7:30; Friday, April 4 at 7:30; Saturday, April 5 at 2:30 & 7:30; Sunday, April 6 at 2:30
Set in Lackawanna, New York, in 1956, this award-winning play chronicles the dreamers, drifters and lost souls who reside in a rooming house run by a fascinating woman known only as "Nanny" — a nurturer who serves up enduring hope along with a hot, tomato-cake meal. Accompanied by the soulful riffs of blues guitarist Bill Sims, Jr., Tony's Award-winning actor/writer Ruben Santiago-Hudson (August Wilson's Seven Guitars) brings vibrant life to a full cast of characters as he conjures up the bustling blue collar town of his own childhood.
Made possible in part by The Little Foundation.
Victoria Theater • \$38

KEITH JARRETT, piano
GARY PEACOCK, bass
JACK DEONHETTE, drums
Friday, April 11 at 8:00

For almost two decades now, Keith Jarrett, Gary Peacock and Jack DeJohnette have been playing standards together, drawing from a repertoire that encompasses music from the 1950s through the 1990s. Their collaboration has resulted in best-selling recordings including the critically acclaimed CD, Inside Out, a pick on many jazz critics' 2001 "Top Ten" lists.
Prudential Hall • \$55-\$115

DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY

Friday, April 25 at 7:30; Saturday, April 26 at 7:30; Sunday, April 27 at 2:30
Pleasant your seatbelts and prepare for take-off with DCCO, a world-class company committed to the African American experience in modern dance. Its NJPAC program will include a new work by Bill T. Jones, co-commissioned by NJPAC and DCCO's Right Project, marking the 100th anniversary of the first flight of the Wright Brothers.
Victoria Theater • \$43

DIANNE REEVES with Orchestra Celebrating Sarah Vaughan

Monday, June 30 at 7:30
Prudential Hall \$99-\$116
One of today's most compelling jazz vocalists pays tribute to New York's own legendary Sarah Vaughan. "Like Sarah Vaughan, Reeves has the high technique that you don't really miss a other singers until you hear her perform," says The New York Times. Reeves also welcomes New Jersey's own acclaimed jazz guitarist and vocalist, John Pizzarelli.
Prudential Hall • \$65-\$116

GREG OSBY FOUR plus JASON MORAN and THE BANDWAGON

Saturday, May 3 at 7:30
Post-bop sax sensation Greg Osby, known throughout the jazz world for his improvisational intensity, has garnered his own electrifying fusion of jazz and hip-hop. The New York Times calls Osby's music-making "staring, self-assured (and beguiling)." Jason Moran, one of the contemporary jazz world's most acclaimed young pianists, is a rising star who draws on passions ranging from free jazz to hip-hop, and influences from Ligeti to De La Soul.
"New Works: Creative and Innovative Program" funded by The David Rockefeller Foundation
Victoria Theater • \$38

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Friday, May 9 at 8:00; Saturday, May 10 at 2:00 & 8:00;
Sunday, May 11 at 3:00
Under the artistic leadership of dance superstar Judith Jamison, America's premier modern dance company perpetuates the creative passion of its legendary founder with a unique blend of modern dance, Afro-Cuban, classical ballet and jazz.

Program: Friday evening & Saturday matinee: Afro Classics with Revelations; Saturday evening and Sunday matinee: The Winter in Lisbon; Sunday matinee: Teaching Revelations
Prudential Hall • \$65-\$116

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CLASSIFIEDS LEGALS

LEGAL and SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF A MINOR CHILD

NOTICE OF PETITION AND HEARING TO TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS PENDING ADOPTION AND NOTICE OF ACTION

TO: RONALD DAWSON BROWN
 ADOPTIVE FATHER

YOU ARE HEREBY notified that a petition for termination of parental rights pending adoption has been filed in the above-styled court on February 24, 2003 under the above case number. There is to be a hearing on the petition to terminate parental rights pending adoption on May 20, 2003 at 9:45 a.m. before Judge George A. Serfati of the Circuit Court of Orange County, 425 N. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32811. Courtroom 16-B. The court has set aside 15 minutes for this hearing. If you executed a consent to adoption or an affidavit of nonpayment and a waiver of venue, you have the right to request that the hearing on the petition to terminate parental rights be transferred to the county in which you reside. You may do so by appearing at the hearing or filing a written objection with the court.

UNDER SECTION 63.089, FLORIDA STATUTES, FAILURE TO FILE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THIS NOTICE WITH THE COURT OR TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING CONSTITUTES GROUND UPON WHICH THE COURT SHALL END ANY PARENTAL RIGHTS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING THE MINOR CHILD.

The birth mother, Sharon Hargrove, believes that you are the birth father of her minor child. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to the petition on the birth mother, Julie A. Chapman, at her home, E. Hillcrest St., Suite 2004, Orlando, FL 32803, and file the original with the clerk of the above-styled court on or before May 20, 2003 otherwise, a judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

The birth mother resides in Orlando, Orange County, Florida, is 26 years old, African American, 5' 7", 215 lbs, with brown eyes and black hair. The birth mother believed that conception occurred in Newark, NJ. The alleged birth father's name is Ronald David Brown and he is 26 years old, African American, 5' 7", 235 lbs, with brown eyes and black hair. The whereabouts of the suspected birth father is unknown to the birth mother.

There is one minor child subject to this action who is a male child, born on December 16, 2002, in Orlando, Florida. The minor child's legal name is Joshua Hargrove. He has also been known as Baby Boy Hargrove. The minor child has not been known by any other names, is not of American Indian ancestry, and does not have a social security number. The minor child is not the child of the birth mother.

The name, address and telephone number of the adoption entity seeking to place the minor for adoption is: Clark of Circuit Court, Domestic Relations Division, 425 N. Orange Ave., Rm. 302, Orlando, FL 32801; telephone number (407) 830-2054.

Notice to grandparents under Fla. Stat. § 63.0425 is not required because the minor child subject to this proceeding is under the age of six months and has not been placed with a grandparent for at least six months.

WITNESS my hand and seal this 5th day of March 2003.

LYDIA GARDNER
 CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 LSGA No. _____
 BY: CIRCUIT COURT SEAL
 Deputy Clerk

In accordance with the AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the COURT ADMINISTRATION, at 425 North Princeton Avenue, Room 2100, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411, telephone (407) 858-2203, within 2 working days of your receipt of this Notice. If you are hearing impaired, call (TDD) 1-800-955-8771; if you are voice impaired, call (VOICE) 1-800-955-8770.

\$50.40

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
 INVITATIONS FOR PROPOSALS
 REUSE COMPACTOR SERVICE CONTRACT

The Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick will receive proposals for a Service Contract for the Reuse Compactor at Hoffman Pavilion (N.J. 22-4). 78 Hudson Street, New Brunswick, N.J. 07102. The forms of documents including specifications are on file at the office of the Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick and may be picked up between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. All proposals must be received by the Housing Authority, 65 Morris Street Second Floor, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901, by 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 9, 2003, at which time all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informalities in taking proposals. No proposal shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty days subsequent to the opening of proposals except with the consent of the Housing Authority. All proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, and must be returned sealed and marked SEAL PROPOSAL FOR REUSE COMPACTOR SERVICE CONTRACT on the envelope.

John H. A. Clarke
 Executive Director

John H. A. Clarke
 Executive Director

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INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Hackensack Housing Authority for the complete construction of Capital Fund Project 2002 for the Kitchen Renovation located at 175 West Railroad Avenue, Hackensack, NJ together with all work incidental thereto in accordance with Drawings and Specifications prepared by Minervini-Vendemmia, LLC.

Bids will be received by the Owner at its office located at 65 First Street-Hackensack, NJ 07601 until 3:00 pm prevailing time on May 16th, 2003 and will be opened and read aloud immediately there after. Bids must include all applicable allowances, unit prices, and numbered alternate bids.

Bids will be received by the following contracts, in accordance with NJS 16A.18A-18.

SINGLE CONTRACT BIDS, includes all work and materials required to complete the project.

175 West Railroad Avenue
 Kitchen Renovation

The Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid, Specifications, Drawings and other contract documents may be examined at the office of the Owner, 65 First Street - Hackensack, NJ 07601 and at the office of the Owner and can be loaned to prospective bidders upon deposit of (\$100.00 dollars). "NON-REFUNDABLE" for each complete set. Payment is to be in the form of a check made payable to "Hackensack Housing Authority".

Bid documents will not be mailed to prospective bidders under any circumstances. Bidders shall use complete sets of Bidding Documents in preparing Bids. Neither the Owner nor the Architect will assume any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security deposit of an amount equal to at least ten (10%) percent of the amount of the base bid, but not less than \$50,000. The deposit may be either a certified check or cashier's check drawn on an incorporated bank or trust company authorized to do business in New Jersey, or a bid bond in favor of the Owner as a guarantee that in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will execute such contract. Upon failure to do so, the bid security will become liable up to its full amount to the Owner. The deposit may be either a certified check or cashier's check drawn on an incorporated bank or trust company authorized to do business in New Jersey, or a bid bond in favor of the Owner as a guarantee that in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will execute such contract. Upon failure to do so, the bid security will become liable up to its full amount to the Owner.

The bid security deposits of all accepting the three lowest bidders will, if requested, be returned after ten (10) days from the opening bids. Sundays and holidays excepted, and the remaining deposits will be returned when the contract of the successful bidder is approved.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a New Jersey Statute Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Payment Bond in the amount of the contract sum.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bids, and to accept the lowest responsive bid.

Attention of the bidders is called particularly to the requirements of conditions of employment and to the minimum prevailing wage to be paid under the contract as stated in the Instructions to Bidders, the General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, and the Supplementary General Conditions.

Bidders are required to comply with the "Affirmative Action" requirements of P.L. 1775, c.127 (NJAC 17:27).

There will be a pre-bid meeting scheduled for April 22nd, 2003 at 10:30 a.m.

The project site located at 175 West Railroad Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601, will be opened to bidders. Bidders shall contact the Owner to arrange to examine the site.

BY ORDER OF THE Hackensack Housing Authority
 \$63.00

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Department at:

973.642-4400

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by St. John's Baptist Church for the complete renovation of the church building, including alterations and addition located at 2387 Morris Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey together with all work incidental thereto in accordance with Drawings and Specifications prepared by Cornerstone Architectural Group, LLC. Bids will be received by the Owner at its office, located at 2387 Morris Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076 until 3:00 PM prevailing time on Tuesday, April 22, 2003. At close of acceptance of bids at the above date and time, all bids will be opened and read aloud. Bidders must include all applicable allowances, unit prices, and numbered alternate bids. Bids will be received by the following contracts, in accordance with NJS 16A.18A-18.

SINGLE CONTRACT BIDS, includes all work and materials required to complete the project. The Instructions to Bidders, Form of Bid, Specifications, Drawings and other contract documents may be examined at the office of the Architects: CORNERSTONE ARCHITECTURAL GROUP, LLC, 2387 Morris Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, 07076 and at the office of the Owner and can be loaned to prospective bidders upon deposit of (\$100.00 dollars). "NON-REFUNDABLE" for each complete set. Payment is to be in the form of a check made payable to "Cornerstone Architectural Group, LLC".

Bid documents will not be mailed to prospective bidders under any circumstances. Bidders shall use complete sets of Bidding Documents in preparing Bids. Neither the Owner nor the Architect will assume any responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete sets of Bidding Documents.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security deposit of an amount equal to at least ten (10%) percent of the amount of the base bid, but not less than \$50,000. The deposit may be either a certified check or cashier's check drawn on an incorporated bank or trust company authorized to do business in New Jersey, or a bid bond in favor of the Owner as a guarantee that in case the contract is awarded to the bidder, he will execute such contract. Upon failure to do so, the bid security will become liable up to its full amount to the Owner.

The bid security deposits of all accepting the three lowest bidders will, if requested, be returned after ten (10) days from the opening bids. Sundays and holidays excepted, and the remaining deposits will be returned when the contract of the successful bidder is approved.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a New Jersey Statute Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Payment Bond in the amount of the contract sum.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bids, and to accept the lowest responsive bid.

Attention of the bidders is called particularly to the requirements of conditions of employment as stated in the Instructions to Bidders, the General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, and the Supplementary General Conditions. Bidders are strongly encouraged to present and outline their respective firms' in-house "Affirmative Action" plans in their bid package, with particular attention paid to the minimum prevailing wage to be paid under the contract and to the requirements of the contract as stated in the Instructions to Bidders, the General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, and the Supplementary General Conditions.

Bidders are required to comply with the "Affirmative Action" requirements of P.L. 1775, c.127 (NJAC 17:27).

There will be a pre-bid meeting scheduled for April 22nd, 2003 at 10:30 a.m.

The project site located at 175 West Railroad Avenue, Hackensack, NJ 07601, will be opened to bidders. Bidders shall contact the Owner to arrange to examine the site.

BY ORDER OF THE Hackensack Housing Authority
 \$63.00

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All requires must be received by April 18, 2003.

Calendar Community

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Newark — The City of Newark and Department of Health and Human Services will kick-off its annual Week of the Young Child at 10:00 a.m. with a rally the City Hall's rounds. From the 7th-11th the city will host several activities for the community. Clinton Hill Community, Newark's Day Care II, Higher Learning Children's Academy, Young People's Institute, and St. Joseph's Day Care Center will host celebrations involving the community. For more info call each center listed above.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Mountainside — Community Access Unlimited (CAU) will host its 19th Annual Awards Night at L'Affaire at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 908-354-3040 ext.366.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Newark — Branch Brook Park, kicks off the Annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Newark and Belleville. For more info call 973-643-1411 or visit www.branchbrookpark.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Newark — St. James Social Services presents a forum about dangerous pharmaceutical drugs like fen-phen and a second forum on medical malpractice from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at St. James A.M.E. Church, 588 MLK Blvd. For more info call 973-624-4007.

Newark — The People's Organization for Progress will hold a unity rally to add to the Newark Advisory Board Election at 2:30 p.m. on Newark City Hall steps. For more info call 973-801-0001.

Jersey City — The New Jersey Chapter of the Afro-American Historical & Genealogical Society will host its monthly meeting from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at 1841 Kennedy Blvd. 2nd Fl. For more info call 201-547-5282.

MONDAY, APRIL 14

Newark — Columbus Hospital will host a memory loss lecture for those living with Alzheimer's in the hospital auditorium from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. On the order to be served. For more info call 973-268-1442.

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Plainfield — United Trust Community Education Center will offer a workshop for women business owners from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. For more info call 908-753-7384.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Belleville — Clara Maass Medical Center will host a free seminar about pain and treatment at 10:30 a.m. For more info call 973-450-2213.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 - 27

Edison — The Super Pet Expo returns to NJ Convention Center at Raritan. For more info call 732-417-1400 or visit www.njexpos.com.

Newark — A computer based 12-week GED course covering subject areas: Writing, Reading, Social Studies, Science and Math. For more info call 973-642-4400.

Calendar Community

TUESDAY, APRIL 29 - MAY 4

Newark — Universal Circus is coming to Newark on its 10th Anniversary Tour. For more info call ticketmaster at 212-397-1771.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Belleville — Clara Maass Medical Center will offer complimentary blood pressure screenings every fourth Monday of the month. For more info call 1-800-CLARA-MAASS.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18 & APRIL 19 - NJPAC presents Anita Baker in concert at 8:00 p.m. Come and enjoy the musical talent of this classical diva. For more info call 1-888-466-5722.

Irvington — Irvington General offers women's HIV/AIDS support group at 10:00 a.m. For more info call 973-275-5210.

Newark — WIC Program at UMDNJ offers a variety of support services to participants. Appointments are strongly recommended. For more info call 973-972-3416.

Newark — Bath Israel Medical Center offers free Breast Cancer Patient Support Group. For more info call 973-928-7609.

Newark — Bath Israel Medical Center offers a bereavement support group every second Monday each month at 6:00 p.m. For more info call 973-926-7278.

Newark — The Women's Center of Essex County College is sponsoring a series of seminars. Support groups during Spring 2003 Semester. For more info call 973-877-3395.

Millburn — The Paper Mill Theatre presents the play Camelot with music by Frederick Loewe. For more info call 973-976-4343.

Somerset — Rutgers Center for Management Development invites experienced executives to a five day leadership program at the DoubleTree Hotel and Conference Center, 200 Abram Dr. For more info call 732-445-5526.

Jersey City — Jersey City Museum invites you to join its Association members. For more info call 201-413-0303 ext. 3115.

Newark — NJIT Procurement Center will host a free workshop for small businesses on how to do business with the federal government from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at NJIT. For more info call 973-586-3105.

Montclair — Trumpets Jazz Club & Restaurant presents Santi DeBari & Ringhout (Lain Samba) from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m. For more info call 973-7744-2600.

Newark — SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) presents a workshop "Starting and Managing Your Business" from 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at SCORE Office, 2 Gateway Center 15th Fl. For more info call 973-645-3882 between 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

New Brunswick — The State Theatre presents Blues legend B.B. King at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 732-246-7469.

Montclair — Trumpets Jazz Club & Restaurant presents Santi DeBari & Ringhout (Lain Samba) from 7:30 - 11:30 p.m. For more info call 973-7744-2600.

Newark — Newark Symphony Orchestra presents The McDonald's Gospelists 2003 with special guest Donnie McClurkin, Vickie Winans, Clay Houston, etc. For more info call 973-643-8009.

Mail your calendar events or photographs at least two weeks in advance to:

City News Publishing
 111 Mulberry St., TC-C
 Newark, NJ 07102 or
 Fax to: 973.642.4444

Monday, April 21 - 22
 Thursday, April 10

Montclair — Trumpets Jazz Club & Restaurant presents Ted Curson, host from the famous Blue Nor's

Late Night Jam Session from 8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. For more info call 973-744-2600.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

New York — African songstress Angelique Kidjo will perform at B.B. King at 8:00 p.m. Kidjo's music reflects jazz, salsa, rumba, souk and makossa. For more info call ticketmaster at 212-397-1771.

Newark — NJPAC presents Dianne Reeves celebrating Sarah Vaughan and special guest The John Pazzari Trio at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 1-888-466-5722.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

New Brunswick — State Theatre presents the Temptations in concert at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 732-246-7469.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

New Brunswick — The State presents of New Brunswick presents Barry Manilow's Coca-Cola Music at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 732-246-7469.

Religion

Newark — Greater Service Fellowship Church invites you to Sunday morning service at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, come get the answers. For more info call 973-948-1711.

Newark — Bath Israel Medical Center offers a bereavement support group every second Monday each month at 6:00 p.m. For more info call 973-926-7278.

Millburn — The Paper Mill Theatre presents the play Camelot with music by Frederick Loewe. For more info call 973-976-4343.

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Affirmative Action Battle

Continued from page 1

"This is not a quota."

Payton made that same point as he carefully explained how the undergraduate's point system works.

Michigan's undergraduate admissions 150-point process awards 20 points to Blacks, Hispanics and Native Americans because they are underrepresented groups on campus. However, a White applicant who is socio-economically disadvantaged can also earn 20 points; but an applicant can't receive points in both categories.

At Michigan, scholarship athletes are automatically awarded 20 points. Under the "provost's discretion," 20 points can be awarded to an applicant regardless of his or her race. A person who lives in an underrepresented Michigan county can receive 16 points-10 for being a Michigan resident and six for geographical reasons. Sons and daughters of Michigan alumni receive an automatic four points.

Solicitor General Olson had a difficult time explaining why West Point, the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy openly embrace race-conscious recruiting but the court is being asked to do away with such programs for the University of Michigan.

"Is it also forbidden for the United States Military Academy?" asked Justice John Paul Stevens. Replied Olson, "It might well be, Justice Stevens. We're not defending the specifics of those programs. But we have not examined them individually."

He also said, "We respect the opinions of those individuals, but the position of the United States is that we do not accept the proposition that Black soldiers will only fight for black officers or the reverse."

In a surprising move, Scalia, said that if the University of Michigan is so impressed by the need for diversity, it should stop being a "super-duper" university.

"Why don't you lower your standard?" Scalia asked.

Payton replied that lowering the school's standard is not necessary to create a diverse student body. Besides, he said, it is up to the school to define its own mission.

Justice Breyer said he understands why Michigan wants to promote diversity.

"They think it breaks down stereotypes within the class, they think it's educationally beneficial," he said. "They think...a legal profession, like business and the military, that is diverse is good for America."

Newark Court offers special hours to pay tickets

The new Newark Municipal Court, in continuing its effort to implement systems, procedures and programs to better serve the public, tomorrow will offer the second of its monthly Ticket Thursdays allowing citizens with traffic violations to come in and pay their tickets.

Acting Presiding Municipal Court Judge Glenn Grant, a member of the Essex County Superior Court, assigned to Newark to revamp the local bench, said that all cashiers window will remain open at the courts'

headquarters, 32 Green Street, until the last ticket is paid. He said additional judges, prosecutors, public defenders and staff will be on duty to expedite payments or to enable individuals to contest their tickets. The court's customer service window also will remain open.

Mayor Sharpe James, who asked the Administrative Office of the Court and Essex County Assignment Judge Joseph Falcone to temporarily assign Grant, a former Newark business administrator, to address and correct

problems in the courts, applauded the implementation of a special day and evening to accommodate the working public.

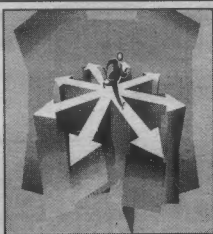
"By keeping our courts open late, the working public can come in after work to pay any outstanding bill, or if they choose to go before a judge and a prosecutor to discuss the violation," James said.

Grant noted that the majority of individuals expected tomorrow have tickets issued as the result of moving violations, "so there

is no question of them receiving a ticket because it was issued to them by a police officer."

The judge noted that human nature often dictates that "an individual waits until the last minute to pay any outstanding bill, and Ticket Thursday enables them to pay their tickets in a timely manner without additional penalties or the potential loss of their driver's license."

Ticket Thursdays will be held on the third Thursday of each month.



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CITYBUSINESS Expo Agenda

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| 7:30 - 9:00 | Registration |
| 7:30 - 8:30 | Power Networking Breakfast |
| 8:30 - 9:15 | Power Breakfast Kick-off |
| 8:00 - 2:00 | Exhibits |
| 9:30 - 12:15 | Workshops |
| 12:30 - 2:00 | Competitive CITYBUSINESS Awards Luncheon |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:30 - 10:45 | Access-to-Capital |
| 9:30 - 10:45 | Community and Economic Development |
| 11:00 - 12:15 | NJ Cities "Opportunities for your Business" |

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| _____ \$25 | Business Profile Listing |
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| _____ \$100 | Full Registration Package includes Power Breakfast, Awards Luncheon and Business Profile & Directory |

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Visa or MasterCard is accepted
For more information call: 973.642.4400

RSVP by April 21, 2003 Fax: 973.642.5444

Please make check or money order payable to: City News
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